

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
TRSE-00 OMB-01 SES-01 SMS-01 A-02 OC-06 CCO-00
OPR-02 OCS-06 CA-01 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 ANAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 IO-14 /129 W
-----121539 311428Z /44

O P 311157Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6655
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
URSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 9594
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBA TH MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
A/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 143
USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
CINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 8733

CINCPAC AND CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD: USICA FOR NEA TED CURRAN

E.O.12065: GDS 12-31-85 (TAYLOR, JAMES E.) OR-P/E
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, PGOV, ASEC AF UR
SUBJ: SOVIET OCCUPATION OF KABUL: SITREP NO.14

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. THE FOURTH DAY OF THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN SAW
A SLACKENING OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE NOW SNOW-BLANKETED
CAPITAL, AS THE BULK OF THE STILL INCREASING SOVIET FORCES
ARE BEING DEPLOYED AROUND THE CITY, AND PERHAPS INTO THE
COUNTRYSIDE. THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE
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AND HAND GRENADE EXPLOSIONS DURING THE PAST TWO NIGHTS, SUG-
GESTING THAT POSSIBLE ATTACKS BY INDIVIDUALS OR SMALL GROUPS
ON THE SOVIET OCCUPIERS MAY BE GETTING UNDERWAY.

3. SEVERAL OF THE "WHITE ARM-BAND" CROWD (THE GENERALLY
SEEDY YOUTHS WHO APPARENTLY EXERCISE AFGHAN CIVILIAN AUTHORITY)
TOOK UP POSITIONS OUTSIDE OUR AID OFFICE DECEMBER 30 AND

BEGAN ASKING THE GUARDS FOR A LIST OF ALL AMERICANS ASSIGNED TO THE MISSION, AS WELL AS TAKING DOWN AUTOMOBILE LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS. WHILE OUTSIDE THE OFFICE, THE YOUTHS COMMENTED TO THE GUARDS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS AN EVIL POWER WHICH SPENT ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MONEY OVER THE PAST YEARS MERELY TO SUPPORT "SPYING EFFORTS." ONE OTHER JARRING NOTE HAS COME FROM A COUPLE OF AFGHANS WHOM WE REGARDED AS PRO-AMERICAN BUT WHO NOW INSIST THAT THE U.S. IS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED HERE, AND THAT "LACK OF AMERICAN RESISTANCE" IS WHAT EMBOLDENED THE SOVIETS TO INVADDE THIS COUNTRY. FINALLY, WE HAVE SEEN OTHER YOUTHS STATIONED AT THE EMBASSY'S FRONT GATE TAKING THE LICENSE NUMBERS OF CARS ENTERING AND LEAVING THE COMPOUND. OUR PAKISTANI COLLEAGUES ARE RECEIVING SIMILAR SURVEILLANCE.

4. THE ANTICIPATED AVALANCHE OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS HAS STARTED TO HIT KABUL. ROBERT REID FROM AP, AND BRADLEY MARTIN FROM THE "BALTIMORE SUN" MADE IT INTO THE COUNTRY SAFELY AND LEGALLY YESTERDAY--MARTIN OVERLAND FROM PESHAWAR AGAINST OUR CONSUL'S BEST ADVICE-- AND WERE BRIEFED ON A STRICTLY BACKGROUND BASIS BY THE EMBASSY. MANY OF THEIR MEDIA COLLEAGUES, HOWEVER, WHO HAD ARRIVED AT KABUL AIRPORT, WERE REFUSED ENTRY AND PUT ON THE NEXT FLIGHT OUT (TO NEW DELHI). THIS REGIME WILL HENCEFORTH PROBABLY PURSUE A VERY STRICT ANTI-JOURNALIST POLICY UNTIL IT GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER, BUT EVEN THEREAFTER IT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE VERY FORTHCOMING TOWARD WESTERN MEDIA

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REPRESENTATIVES. REID AND MARTIN ARE PROBABLY HERE BY A FLUKE, AND THEY COULD POSSIBLY BE ASKED TO LEAVE AT ANY TIME.

5. RELIABLE REPORTS INDICATE THAT SOME POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON, BUT THESE SAME REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FREED HAVE BEEN ONLY PARCHAMISTS PURGED BY THE DEFUNCT KHALQI REGIME. "VACANCIES" THUS CREATED IN PUL-I-CHARKI WILL PROBABLY BE FILLED BY KHALQIS.

6. RADIO AFGHANISTAN LAST NIGHT REPORTED THE RECEIPT OF "CONGRATULATORY" MESSAGES TO BABRAK KARMAL FROM CERTAIN "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES," INCLUDING BULGARIA, THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, AND VIETNAM. BABRAK'S RESPONSE TO A SIMILAR "CONGRATULATORY" MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV WAS ALSO REPORTED. HIGHLIGHT OF THIS MESSAGE WAS THE STATEMENT THAT "I AM SURE THAT, THROUGH THE BROTHERLY AID AND PERMANENT COOPERATION OF THE GREAT USSR, WE WILL TRIUMPH OVER OVER ALL THE PROBLEMS INHERITED FROM THE PAST, AND WE CAN AND MUST DEFEND THE GREAT SAUR REVOLUTION'S GOALS, AS WELL AS THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND NATIONAL HONOR OF AFGHANISTAN."

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-----122422 311756Z /44/44

O P 311157Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6656
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
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USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
CINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 8733

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CINCPAC AND CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD: USICA FOR NEA TED CURRAN

7. THE RADIO REPLAYED AN ALLEGED EAST GERMAN STATEMENT THAT SOVIET MILITARY "HELP" WAS SENT IN AT THE "REQUEST" OF THE DRA IN ORDER TO REPEL FOREIGN AGGRESSION. LIKEWISE, A RADIO BROADCAST CITED AN ALLEGED LEBANESE NEWS REPORT THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THOSE ATTEMPTING TO CRUSH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND IN AFGHANISTAN, "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" WAS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO REACTIONARY CIRCLES. ALTHOUGH SUCH STATEMENTS ARE STILL ATTRIBUTED TO OTHERS, AN
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ANTI-U.S. LINE IN THIS REGIME'S PROPAGANDA IS CLEARLY AND

QUICKLY EMERGING. NO PRESS HAS YET BEEN PUBLISHED, BUT IT TOOK FIVE DAYS AFTER APRIL 27, 1978, FOR THE FIRST EDITIONS TO OUT THE STREETS.

8. BABRAK AND AT LEAST SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN SEEN AND TALKED TO BY RELIABLE OBSERVERS. THE AMBASSADOR OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS SAID HE HAS ACTUALLY CALLED ON BABAT THE LATTER'S REQUEST, PERHAPS BECAUSE BABRAK WAS BRIEFLY AMBASSADOR IN PRAGUE FOLLOWING HIS PURGE IN THE SUMMER OF 1978), AND THE LOCAL HEAD OF THE UNDP ACCIDENTALLY MET SULTAN ALI KESHTMAND DURING A VISIT TO THE PLANNING MINISTRY WHERE KESHTMAND IS THE NEW MINISTER. NONETHELESS, FOR SOME REASON, BABRAK STILL HAS NOT MADE A PUBLIC APPEARANCE, NOR A LIVE BROADCAST ON RADIO OR TV.

9. SEVERAL CZECH NATIONALS WHO ARE IN HERAT ON AN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECT HAVE REPORTED TO THEIR EMBASSY HERE THAT SOVIET FORCES ENTERED AFGHANISTAN ON DECEMBER 27 AT TORGUNDI, NORTH OF HERAT, AND THAT THEY ENCOUNTERED RESISTANCE FROM THE AFGHAN MILITARY ONCE THEY ARRIVED IN THE VICINITY OF HERAT. THIS RESISTANCE WAS OVERCOME, HOWEVER, AND THE CITY NOW APPEARS QUIET.

10. ONE OF OUR PAKISTANI COLLEAGUES HAS OFFERED THE FOLLOWING ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM, THE AFGHAN ARMY HAS BEEN, OR SOON WILL BE, ;8457-))6 :9.0)353)6 \$8-4.3\$, AND WILL CEASE TO BE A SERIOUS THREAT TO EITHER THE SOVIET FORCES HERE, OR TO THE INSURGENTS. HE ADDED THAT THE SOVIET ARMY UNITS ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE THE FIELD AGAINST THE INSURGENTS, IN ORDER TO IMPOSE A MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S SECURITY PROBLEMS. IN HIS VIEW, A MILITARY SOLUTION WILL PROBABLY BE ACHIEVED, SINCE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE INSURGENTS ARE SIMPLY NO MATCH FOR THE SOVIET FORCES NOW ON THE SCENE, AND ALSO BECAUSE THE USSR WILL SPARE NO EFFORT OR VIOLENCE TO WIPE OUT PERCEIVED OPPOSITION. IN THE LONGER RUN, THE PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION OF THE OPPOSITION -- AND LOTS OF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AS WELL -- WILL PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY A "REBUILDING" OF AN AFGHAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY CADRE LOYAL TO THE BABRAK/PARCHAMIST/SOVIET REGIME. THIS WILL BE AN EXTREMELY LENGTHY PROCESS, HOWEVER, AND A MASSIVE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THIS COUNTRY WILL BE A FACT OF LOR PERHAPS YEARS TO COME.

11. WE HOPE TO TAKE A RESPITE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, AND BARRING ANY FURTHER MAJOR UPHEAVALS, OUR NEXT SITREP WILL BE FILED JANUARY 2, 1980. THE PASSING OF 1979 WILL NOT BE LAMENTED BY MEMBERS OF THIS MISSION.AMSTUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, ARMED FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 dec 1979
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1979KABUL08733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR TAYLOR, JAMES E
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D800004-0123
Format: TEL
From: KABUL OR-P
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1979/newtext/t1979123/aaaaabxg.tel
Line Count: 223
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c9763806-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jan 2006
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 266849
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET OCCUPATION OF KABUL: SITREP NO.14
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, PGOV, ASEC, AF, UR
To: SECSTATE WASHDC ANKARA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9763806-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014